



Fact Sheet:



The Quality Assurance Standards of the California Mentor Initiative

The California Mentor Initiative

The California Mentor Initiative (CMI) was created to address four major challenges facing youth today: alcohol/drug use, teen pregnancy, educational failure, and gang involvement and violence. California is committed to mentoring, not as a panacea for youth's problems but as a life-changing strategy for assisting today's youth to become productive, contributing members of our society. The desired outcome of the CMI is to reduce these challenges and assist youth by increasing the number of mentors and supporting mentor programs' efforts to provide high quality mentoring services.

Background and Purpose

In May 1997, the California Mentor Coalition adopted Quality Assurance (QA) Standards specifically designed to ensure mentor program quality, longterm operational sustainability and above all, maximum protection for mentees 18 years of age and under. The standards are voluntarily adopted by mentor programs as a prerequisite for inclusion in the California Mentor Initiative (CMI) Mentor Program Directory and database. The QA Standards include:

1. A statement of purpose and a long range program and funding plan;
2. A recruitment plan for mentors and mentees;
3. An orientation for mentors and mentees;
4. Eligibility screening for mentors and mentees;

5. A readiness and training curriculum for all mentors and mentees;
6. A matching strategy;
7. A monitoring process;
8. A support, recognition, and retention component;
9. Closure steps; and
10. An evaluation process.

Quality Assurance Process

The process for inclusion in the CMI Mentor Program Directory/database is voluntary completion by the mentor program of a QA survey. The QA Committee, composed of mentor program representatives, meets on a quarterly basis to review the surveys and determine if the information presented indicates that the program operates in a manner consistent with the Standards.* If the program's survey is approved, the program is entered into the CMI database. If the survey is not approved, the program is referred to no-cost training and technical assistance (t.a.). Once the program has received training/t.a. and implemented necessary improvements, the program is welcome to submit a new survey to the QA Committee for consideration. It is important to note that the QA process is managed by programs in the field through the QA Committee. Staff support for the QA Committee is provided by the CMI Office within the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs.

Mentor Program Directory

Once a program has passed the QA Standards review, they are included in the CMI database and Mentor Program Directory. This resource document contains information on mentor programs in California that provide a variety of services to youth. Individuals interested in becoming associated with these mentor programs are strongly encouraged to personally contact and evaluate those programs of interest to them. To request a copy of the QA Standards, QA Survey or Mentor Program Directory, please contact:

The Mentor Resource Center
Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs
1700 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(800) 444-3066

*The QA Committee does not verify the information reported on the QA surveys, conduct site-visits of the mentor programs or certify or license these programs.